AF 2540 PATENT 2700 FBR6132P0010US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In re Application Of:

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RESPONSE

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Mail Stop Appeal Briefs - Patent Commissioner for Patents Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Filed: March 24, 2000

APR 0 8 2004

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

This is in response to the Notification of Non-Compliance With 37 CFR 1.192(c) mailed March 8, 2004.

The basis for the stated Non-Compliance was that the brief did not contain a correct copy of the appealed claims in that "or similar" had been omitted from claim 1 in the Appendix.

As discussed with Examiner Harvey and in accordance with the telefax of March 8, 2004, enclosed is a copy of a First Preliminary Amendment Upon Entry Into National Stage filed with the application papers on February 14, 2000. Enclosed is a copy of a return postcard receipt showing receipt of the Preliminary Amendment. As noted in the Preliminary Amendment, the term "(or similar)" was deleted from claim 1. As such, the brief was not defective and should be immediately taken up for consideration.

37 CFR 1.8 CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Box Mail Stop Appeal Briefs - Patents, Commissioner for Trademarks, 2900 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3514 on March 31, 2004.

Signature: Corinne Byk

Corinne Byk

Applicant notes the Examiner's telephone message that the rejection would be withdrawn because the claims in the amended form had not been addressed. Applicant requests that such action be taken as soon as possible since nine (9) months have passed since the filing of applicant's Brief.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 31, 2004

F. William McLaughlin Reg. No. 32,273

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